

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 074698

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PDEV, WA, SF

SUBJECT:NAMIBIA: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

THERE HAVE BEEN THE FOLLOWING NAMIBIA DEVELOPMENTS SINCE
YOU LEFT WASHINGTON:

A) CONTACT GROUP: THE CG HAS YET TO FINALIZE ITS REVISED
SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL AND HAS NOW FALLEN A WEEK BEHIND ITS
ORIGINAL SCHEDULE FOR DISTRIBUTING IT TO THE FRONT LINE,
SWAPO, AND SOUTH AFRICA. MAIN STUMBLING BLOCK HAS BEEN A
DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN US AND BRITISH OVER TALKING POINTS
ON TIMING OF SAG TROOP WITHDRAWAL FOR USE IN AN ORAL
STATEMENT TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS.

BRITISH HAD BEEN INSISTING WE SHOULD TELL THE SAG WE WOULD
"SUPPORT" SOUTH AFRICA'S ACCESSION TO A REQUEST BY
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PAGE 02 STATE 074698

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY TO RETAIN TROOPS. WE HAD OFFERED
ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE OF "WOULD NOT OPPOSE...", POINTING
OUT THAT BRITISH FORMULA WOULD HAVE CONTRADICTED CG PROPOSAL.

WE UNDERSTAND THAT IN AN EFFORT TO BREAK THE IMPASSE THE
UK IS NOW PROPOSING THAT IN OUR DISCUSSION WITH THE SAG
WE "ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY MIGHT WISH

TO EXPRESS THEIR OPINION ON THE MATTER". THE CG WILL

BE CONSIDERING THIS LANGUAGE THIS AFTERNOON (MARCH 22).

B) SOUTH AFRICAN VIEWS: FOURIE TOLD AMBASSADOR BOWDLER MARCH 18 IN A PRIVATE CONVERSATION THAT THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY OF THE SAG'S ACCEPTING OUR PROPOSAL AS NOW DRAFTED. HE CLAIMED ENTIRE SAG CABINET WAS AGAINST PROVISION CALLING FOR WITHDRAWAL OF ALL SADF TROOPS FROM FORWARD BASES. FOURIE SAID THAT THE SAG BELIEVED SWAPO WOULD PROBABLY NOT FIND THE REVISED PROPOSAL ACCEPTABLE EITHER, SO WE WOULD END UP WITH A SITUATION COMPARABLE TO THE RHODESIA IMPASSE. THE AMBASSADOR BELIEVES THAT THE SAG WILL WAIT TO SEE HOW SWAPO REACTS BEFORE TIPPING ITS HAND ON OUR REVISED PROPOSAL.

C). COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA MEETING: THE COUNCIL OPENED ITS LUSAKA SESSION MARCH 20. THERE HAVE BEEN NO PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS SO FAR, AND THE MEETING IS EXPECTED TO END MARCH 23. A DRAFT OF THE FINAL DECLARATION CONDEMNS SOUTH AFRICA AND "INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISM" AND STATES THE COUNCIL'S SUPPORT FOR THE "ARMED LIBERATION STRUGGLE OF THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE UNDER SWAPO." HOWEVER, THE AUSTRALIANS WERE ABLE TO INTRODUCE AND HAVE ACCEPTED LANGUAGE EXPRESSING THE COUNCIL'S SUPPORT FOR "POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC

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PAGE 03 STATE 074698

EFFORTS OF SWAPO TO SECURE GENUINE INDEPENDENCE FOR NAMIBIA" IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICABLE UN RESOLUTIONS. VANCE

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